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Greater Dayton Chapter 18th Annual Award Dinner

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DAYTON, Ohio, January 16, 1971 --- Mrs. Erma Fiste Bombeck, UD 1949, whose nationally-syndicated column appears in 250 newspapers; Percy Vera, '63, '66, who has proved that integrated housing can work; Mrs. Mary (Scherer) Corpstein, '60, who has devoted 10 years to her alma mater, and Dr. Peter Faso, University of Dayton biology professor, were honored tonight by the Greater Dayton Chapter, University of Dayton Alumni Association.

The occasion was the Chapter's 18th annual awards dinner in the University's Kennedy Union. The awards program dates back to 1953.

Mrs. Bombeck received the Professional Achievement Award; Mr. Vera was given the Civic Achievement Award; Mrs. Corpstein, the Chapter Service Award, and Dr. Faso, the Special Service Award. A committee of Chapter members made the selections. Chapter Board members and University administrative personnel attended the dinner.

The Bombeck column, variously called "At Wit's End" and "Our Girl From Bellbrook", began in the Dayton Journal Herald in 1965 as a local effort. Its good natured humor, which pokes fun at the housewife's plight and herself in particular, came to the attention of Publishers-Hall, which syndicates newspaper and magazine material throughout the country. She also writes a monthly column, "Up The Wall," for Good Housekeeping magazine and is the author of a successful 1967 book, "At Wit's End." She also has appeared frequently on the Mike Douglas television show in Philadelphia.

Mrs. Bombeck has been in great demand as a lecturer but has recently limited her appearances so she can spend more time with her family --- husband Bill, a supervisor for the Dayton Board of Education, and three teenagers. She was honored in 1969 by Theta Sigma Phi, the national journalism honorary sorority for women.

Mr. Vera has been extremely active in interracial affairs in Southwestern Ohio, particularly in Dayton. A professor of economics at Sinclair Community College, Mr. Vera is a member of the Catholic Interracial Council, Daytonview Coalition, Project Equality, and has participated in racial and educational innovation at St. Agnes elementary school in Daytonview.

It was through Mr. Vera's patience, understanding and leadership that neighborhoods in Daytonview have been successfully integrated. He also teaches and lectures at the University of Dayton, Bergamo, the Christian Center for Renewal; and churches and other organizations in Dayton.

The father of six children, Mr. Vera spent four years in the U. S. Marine Corps before coming to the University of Dayton from New York City in 1958. He received a bachelor's degree in economics and an MBA degree from UD and is currently studying for his doctorate at the University of Cincinnati.

Mrs. Corpstein has been a member of the Chapter Board for three years and has served the group in many capacities. It is usually stated that if you want something done efficiently and quickly call Mary Corpstein. She has served on several Board committees and is considered a "one-woman telephone gang" when the

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Board needs to get "the word around." She has served at the last three Homecomings as registration chairman and chaired the 10th anniversary class reunion of the 1960 class.

She and her husband Robert, '61, have three children. He is a supervisor at Chemineer, Inc.

Dr. Faso has served the University since 1946. He is known to hundreds of students and alumni as "Dr. Pete" and has served on many university administrative and academic committees. In these capacities he has devoted the last 25 years of his life to the University, its students and alumni members.

A 1936 and 1941 graduate of Villanova University, Dr. Faso also has an honorary doctor of science degree from the College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery in Des Moines, Iowa. In 1969, Dr. Faso was one of 25 North American scientists who lectured before the American Congress of Anatomy in Caracas, Venezuela. More than 200 north, south and central American scientists attended the meeting.

He and his wife, Margaret, have two daughters and five grandchildren.